

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – June 20, 2012

Selectmen Joseph Cuddemi and James Cleary were present when the meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. as well as Administrator Denise French. Selectman Steven Osienski arrived at 6:15 p.m.

Scott Liljeberg, Trustee of Cold Springs Land Trust met with the Selectmen to finalize language for a Permanent Easement Deed which affects Map 17/Lot 33. Total compensation for the three easements was established at \$5,000. It was agreed that if the Bible Hill Road culvert replacement project should become abandoned by the Town the Easement Deed would become null and void and the \$5,000 payment returned to the Town. The Easement Deed was signed by Cold Springs Land Trust Trustee Scott Liljeberg.

Antrim Selectmen John Robertson, Eric Tenney and Michael Genest, accompanied by Administrator Galen Stearns, met with the Bennington Selectmen by invitation to discuss the proposed Antrim/Bennington Agreement which addresses joint ownership and responsibilities relative to the planned replacement of Bridge #184/071. Antrim Officials confirmed their decision that Bennington Town Officials will have all authority to negotiate, sign, implement, compromise, amend, contest, defend, interpret and in all matters be the final decision maker. Each town assumes full responsibility for one-half of all of the costs associated with the bridge rehabilitation project. The Agreement was signed by John Robertson, Eric Tenney, Michael Genest, Joseph Cuddemi and James Cleary.

In other matters the Selectmen took action on the following:

- Reviewed and approved Selectmen Minutes for June 6 and June 15, 2012.
- Reviewed May 14 and June 11, 2012 Planning Board Minutes as well as June 12, 2012 Cemetery Trustees Minutes.
- Reviewed Payroll Registers for June 12, 19 and 20, 2012 as well as Accounts Payable Registers for June 13, 2012.
- Heard a report that Dollar General/Zaremba Group has withdrawn their applications from the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Planning Board.
- Agreed that the raft at Whittemore Lake will be removed until the beach is fully staffed by lifeguards.
- Discussed a request from a property representative of 34 Acre Street relative to an abatement of utility charges due to their tenant vacating the premises and the need to settle the associated security deposit. The Selectmen supported the Water/Sewer Commissioners' June 16th decision not to issue an abatement prior to the July billing cycle and will suggest that the property representative prorate the utilities amount due from the former tenant.
- During the absence of a weekly Selectmen's meeting, the Board voted a policy that the Code Officer has authority to execute a Building Permit during the interlude. The Board of Selectmen will review the Building Permit at a subsequent meeting to ratify the Code Officer's decision.
- Heard a report that the Joint Loss Management Committee has recommended cleanup of the bat guano at Town Hall; a potential vendor will be providing an estimate next week. In response to a report of mice droppings and ants in the VFW kitchen, the Highway Department will be recruited to spray the foundation, etc.

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- The Selectmen voted to continue utilizing the Taxpayer Inventory Blank (PA-28) and signed the associated Department of Revenue Administration's form so stating the Board's decision.
- Heard an update from Building Committee member Jim Cleary of their meeting the previous evening. The Administrator was asked to seek Grant information for rehabilitating the VFW and the Town Hall, as both buildings are registered on the National Historic Registry.
- Authorized Selectman Cleary to investigate communities who might be interested in combining emergency services.
- Signed were an Employee Time-Off Request and the 2012 Dog Warrant as requested by the Town Clerk.

From 7:15 p.m. until 7:35 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c) to process 2011 Abatement Applications. Present were Selectmen Osienski, Cuddemi and Cleary as well as Administrator French. The following Abatement Applications were approved: Map 2/Lot 21, Map 3/Lot 14, Map 7/Lot 109, Map 10/Lot 38, Map 12/Lot 1C5B, Map 12/Lot 3, Map 13/Lot 3A1, Map 21/Lot 13-1 and Map 22/Lot 11D. An Abatement Application for Map 24/Lot 15-1 was denied.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Town Administrator